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THE ADVANTAGES OF FOUR H CLUB CAMPS

Broadcast by B. W. Marston, State Club Leader, Wyoming, and 4-H Club members Gladys Oller, Eva Pearl, Neil Gose, Doris Laughlin and Bobby Adcock, Saturday June 3, 1939, in the National 4-H Club program, National Farm and Home Hour.

--ooOoo--

Marston:

A cheery how-to-you-do, friends of the Farm and Home Hour, from the 4-H clubs of Wyoming ---- the land of the shining mountains and the wide open spaces, where the old rugged west really begins. How would you like to visit one of our 4-H club camps this summer, located in a forest wilderness, on the shores of a mountain-mirrored lake, or on the banks of a clear rushing stream, high in the Rockies?

Today we are going to tell you how our 4-H club members enjoy these beauties, and at the same time have fun and new experiences at their annual summer camps. There is so much fun to be had there that you too would enjoy visiting one of these camps, and, may I add,-- the welcome sign is always out to friendly visitors.

Here in the studio today are four Wyoming club members from whom you will learn about these camps. They come from different parts of Wyoming and each has had several years experience at camp.

Before you meet them, let me introduce Miss Gladys Oller, Assistant State Club Leader, from the University of Wyoming, at Laramie.

Oller:

How do you do, Farm and Home Hour friends.

Marston:

Miss Oller, you have been looking into the history of Wyoming club camps, haven't you?

Oller:

Yes, Mr. Marston, I have, there have been 4-H club camps ever since extension work started in Wyoming 25 years ago. But the first real recreation camp was held in 1926 at Tensleep Meadows in the Big Horn Mountains of northwestern Wyoming. Camps have been held there every year since then, with four counties attending. Other camps have been set up until eleven ~~are~~ now held each year.

Marston:

How many club members attend these camps?

Oller:

Nearly half our club members attend some camp every summer. About 250 have been attending the Tensleep Camp, which is the largest, but the average at the other camps ranges from 75 to 100.

(over)

Marston:

Would you say that each camp offers the same advantages?

Oller:

No, I wouldn't. The setting is different and some camps are held in connection with county fairs. This changes the type of program as well as the setting, -each county has the kind of camp that fits best.

Marston:

If half the club members in the state attend one camp or another, camps must be popular with the boys and girls. Now, let's hear what our club members think of the camps. First, Eva Pearl Kurtz. Eva Pearl--- you're 17 years old---

Eva Pearl:

That's right, Mr. Marston.

Marston:

And you live near Riverton in the northwestern part of the state.

Eva Pearl:

That's correct.

Marston:

But I understand that you attended the Tensleep camp---which is a long distance from your home.

Eva Pearl:

It's about 140 miles. But here's the reason I attended Tensleep Meadows. Two years ago we didn't have a 4-H camp---but two of us were chosen to represent our county at the Tensleep camp. We'd heard so much about it---that we wanted to find out some things first hand.

Marston:

Pretty place---isn't it?

Eva Pearl:

Oh---yes---beautiful. The camp is right at the timber line, with snowbanks on the higher mountains. And the air is crisp, cool, and clear. And the scenery----well---it just takes your breath away, no matter where you look.

Marston:

It was two years ago that you attended the Tensleep camp. Did you go again last year?

Eva Pearl:

No. We had a 4-H Club camp in our own county last year. I went home from the Tensleep camp determined that we were going to have a camp in Fremont County---and that we'd raise enough money so every club member could attend---not just a few.

Marston:

That's a fine thing to determine. How did you get along?

Eva Pearl:

Well--we had the camp, and my club alone raised enough money to send 15 members. We had so much fun that we all want to go again this year, and already have enough money.

MARSTON:

I think that tells--without my asking---how the boys and girls in your club liked the first county camp last year. Won't you tell us something about a typical day in your camp. How do you start the day-- what do you do in the morning--afternoon---and so on?

Eva Pearl:

Well---we had a flag raising service in the morning--- and than a few minutes of snappy setting up exercise.

Marston:

They help to work up an appetite for breakfast, don't they?

Eva Pearl:

Yes--but when you're camping in the mountains, your appetite's always good. At meals, besides eating, we usually sing and there's a lot of good natured rivalry between table groups.

Marston:

I suppose camp wouldn't be camp without that kind of rivalry. But what about the times between meals?

Eva Pearl:

We had instructions in different phases of 4-H Club work; usually speakers--and we learned all kinds of new games and folk dances, played soft ball and volley ball. We went on nature hikes and learned to identify trees, shrubs and flowers.

Marston:

That's always interesting---

Eva Pearl:

I should say it is. And two afternoons we worked on handicraft. I enjoyed it very much. The girls wove bracelets and the boys made hatbands and cords.

Marston:

That sounds like a full schedule for the daytime. What about the evenings?

Eva Pearl:

Oh---they're the best part of the day. We'd have stunts, song fests, motion pictures----and one evening we had a vespers service.

Marston:

That's a good start, Eva Pearl---Now--- Neil Gose, you came from Weston County, over near the Black Hills; I understand the camp you have

attended for several years has a very beautiful site.

Neil:

Yes, we think so. It is the Mallow Canyon Lodge, located in a deep wooded canyon in the mountains, with spruce trees growing on either side, and a clear mountain stream nearby. There is one large building and several smaller cabins, all made of logs.

Marston:

How many club members attend your camp, Neil?

Neil:

About one hundred and twenty-five, but part of them were from Crook County.

Oller:

What did you do at your camp that was different?

Neil:

We went swimming every afternoon; which was great sport. We also had a different handicraft project. The boys made chinker-checker game boards, and the girls made basswood trinket boxes with a 4-H emblem carved on the cover.

Marston:

Doris Laughlin, you are from Sweetwater County in the southwestern part of the State.

Doris:

Yes, but at present I am attending the University of Wyoming, as a freshman student.

Marston:

And you have attended your county camp?

Doris:

For eight successive years.

Marston:

That's a lot of camping. Are the camps over your way any different from those already described?

Doris:

Ours are also mountain camps, but we have no fine cabins or lodges to stay in. We bring our bed rolls and tents and live in the open.

Marston:

Being near some of the highest peaks of the Rockies, it must be quite cool there, isn't it?

Doris:

Yes, but with the shelter of the pines and a few small tents we manage to get along very well.

Oller:

You have lakes near there too, haven't you?

Doris:

Oh! yes, over fifty of them, and the best of trout fishing.

Marston:

I suppose you have all become expert fishermen?

Doris:

We catch enough to have several good messes of trout, but you know that trout are not always easy to catch!

Oller:

Then, who prepares the meals at your camp, Doris?

Doris:

We take turns doing that. There are always a number of older girls and several club leaders there, and they divide into shifts responsible for the different meals. The younger members and all the boys help with that work.

Marston:

Now, let's hear from Bobby Adcock. Bobby, you live in the southeastern part of the state, -in the Plains country. Does your camp provide the same facilities as these we have already heard about?

Bobby:

Not quite, you know, our camp is held in connection with our county fair, and we use the school buildings at Pine Bluffs,--we sleep in class rooms, our meals are prepared in the high school home economics rooms, and we use the playgrounds and high school gym for our games, sports and programs.

Oller:

Your camp is one of those in the state which combines recreation and county fair activities.

Bobby:

Yes, Miss Oller, our camp makes it possible for all club members to come to the county fair. Some have seventy-five miles to come.

Marston:

What do you folks do at your camp, Bobby?

Bobby:

We take care of our livestock and join in 4-H club demonstrations and judging contests. We also have some grand times playing outdoor games, especially soft ball, for we are great soft ball sports down in our county.

Marston:

How do you spend your evenings?

Bobby:

We have special programs. Among the things I like best are the programs we make for ourselves. Last year the group I was in put on a shadowplay called, "The Little Old Lady in the Shoe."

Oller:

Mr. Marston, let's hear how these camps are organized and governed.

Marston:

That's a good idea, Miss Oller. Just how are your camps organized? You first, Doris.

Doris:

Our county agent in Sweetwater County appoints a committee of club leaders and members who make all plans. Last year, I served on this committee. We planned the menus, made out the lists of groceries and supplies, and arranged to get the club members to the camp.

Marston:

The fee charged at most camps is between two and three dollars. Does this keep many from going, Doris?

Doris:

No, we usually have money raising activities in our 4-H Community club during the spring and early summer months and get enough money in this way to buy all the groceries and other supplies needed.

Marston:

Bobby, what stands out in your mind in regard to camp organization?

Bobby:

I think the system we have for washing dishes is quite an idea. Our camp is divided into groups, which take turns washing up after meals.

Oller:

Is your camp divided into groups like that, Neil?

Neil:

Yes, it is. We were assigned to one of eight groups as we registered. Each group elected a captain and a councilman. Both of these represented the group on the Camp Council.

Oller:

Of course, every camp must have a governing body.

Neil:

The council elected a mayor, a justice of the peace, a marshall, and a dog catcher. Council meetings were held once or twice every day.

Marston:

Did you serve in any office in this camp?

Neil:

Yes, I was elected marshall, but we had^a very orderly family and the peace officers had little to do, except, to inspect the camp once a day to

see that all beds were made and the cabins and grounds kept neat and clean.

Marston:

That really makes a fine organization. Each camp has a well worked out program which runs on schedule. We have already heard something about the programs. I would like to know which features each of you likes best. What's your first choice, Bobby?

Bobby:

I am what you would call a lover of music, so I liked the singing part. I like to sing gay songs that are snappy and happy.

Marston:

I believe that all club members like the singing, and we really do a lot of it in Wyoming.

Bobby:

Some boys who attend camp are very bashful at first, but when they get to mixing with the others they soon get over their shy and bashful ways. Very often I have noticed that boys and girls who come to the camp for the first time do not make much of a showing at the fair, but what they see and learn gives them more interest and enthusiasm and they come back the next time and really do a lot better.

Marston:

Now Neil, what part did you prefer?

Neil:

We played all kinds of games and sports, baseball, volley ball, badminton, swimming, and went on hikes, but I believe the part I liked best was the amateur hour, in which my brother and I took part. He plays a banjo, and I a guitar.

Marston:

Eva Pearl, what would be your choice?

Eva Pearl:

The best of all at last year's camp, I thought, was the 'treasure hunt', in which we were given identical lists of names of flowers, trees and shrubs, which had been pointed out to us on the first day's hike.

Oller:

How did you use that list?

Eva Pearl:

Each group was told to go out in a different direction and secure a sample of each in a given length of time. A prize was awarded to the group which returned with the most correctly identified treasures.

Marston:

Doris, what appealed to you?

Doris:

That's rather hard to say, Mr. Marston, but I believe that I enjoyed the vespers service most. One evening, just as the sun was setting, the entire group went to a place far up on the mountain. We had scripture readings, hymns, and a prayer, and I know that it gave us a deeper reverence for our Lord and Creator and a greater appreciation of the beauty of the world around us.

Marston:

And now, radio friends--in this short period, we have told you of the 4-H club camps as they are conducted each summer here in Wyoming. Does your county have a 4-H club camp? We hope so, and we hope every 4-H club member may be able to attend. When you come to Wyoming, plan to visit one of our 4-H club camps.

DENVER ANNOUNCER: A splendid example of our famed Western hospitality, Mr. Marston---and we all second that invitation.

You've met Burton W. Marston and Miss Gladys Oller---the leaders of 4-H Club work in the state of Wyoming; with them were Eva Pearl Kurtz of Fremont County; Neil Gose, from Weston County; Doris Laughlin of Sweetwater County; and Bobby Adcock of Laramie County, Wyoming.

They have spoken to you from the studios of KOA in Denver. We return you now to Washington.

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